

## ABSTRACT

A method for communicating between a user terminal and multiple stratospheric transponder platforms includes the steps of positioning a plurality of 5 stratospheric transponder platforms (102, 104, 106, 108) in a substantially fixed position (152) with respect to a user terminal antenna (116) coupled to a user terminal (117) and communicating between the user terminal (117) and at least two of the plurality of stratospheric 10 transponder platforms (102, 104, 106, 108) concurrently.